

Application number 10/644,300,
Response to Office Action Mailed 02/24/2006

Complete Listing of all Pending Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for closing a fastener, the apparatus comprising:

a first member adapted to engage and bend a fastener toward a closed position;

a second member defining a recessed fastener guide adapted to engage and bend the fastener toward the closed position, the recessed fastener guide being generally aligned with the first member to receive at least a portion of the fastener from the first member;

structure for moving the first member; and

structure for moving the second member relative to the first member to move the fastener toward the closed position, wherein the structure for moving the first member is adapted to move the first member and the second member simultaneously, and wherein the first member at least partially supports the second member for movement therewith.

2-3. (Claims 2-3 are canceled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the structure for moving the first member and the structure for moving the second member comprise at least one cam defining two cam surfaces.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the structure for moving the first member and the structure for moving the second member comprise cam followers adapted to engage the two cam surfaces.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recessed fastener guide comprises a groove defined in the second member.

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7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first member defines a recessed fastener guide; further wherein the recessed fastener guide of the first member is generally aligned with opposite ends of the recessed fastener guide of the second member to guide opposite ends of the fastener to the recessed fastener guide of the second member.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recessed fastener guide of the second member defines a generally straight, generally continuous channel adapted to receive both ends of the fastener.

9. (Currently amended) A media-fastener closing device, comprising:

a first receiver defining a first channel for receiving a plurality of ends of a media fastener;

a second receiver defining a second channel for receiving the plurality of ends of the media fastener from the first channel; and

a movement device for moving the second receiver, and the second channel, relative to the first receiver to close the media fastener, wherein the first receiver comprises a first surface and the first channel is recessed relative to the first surface; further wherein the second receiver comprises a second surface and the second channel is recessed relative to the second surface, and wherein the movement device is adapted to move the second surface toward or past the first surface to close the media fastener.

10. (Original) The closing device of claim 9, wherein the second channel extends in a generally straight direction of movement of the media-fastener ends in the second channel.

11-12. (Claims 11-12 are canceled.)

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13. (Currently amended) The closing device of claim 9 [11], wherein the movement device is adapted to move the second channel from a position generally aligned with the first channel, for receiving the ends of the media fastener, to a position generally unaligned with the first channel, to close the media fastener.

14. (Currently amended) The closing device of claim 9 [11], wherein the first receiver generally surrounds the second receiver.

15. (Currently amended) The closing device of claim 9 [11], wherein the second channel is a generally continuous channel; further wherein the first channel is a generally discontinuous channel disposed on opposite ends of the second channel.

16. (Currently amended) The closing device of claim 9 [11], wherein the first channel is disposed at an angle to the second channel to guide the ends of the media fastener to the second channel.

17. (Original) A method of closing a fastener, comprising:
engaging ends of the fastener with a first groove of a first closing member;
bending the ends of the fastener with the first closing member;
engaging the ends of the fastener with a second groove of a second closing member, the second closing member being supported by the first closing member for movement therewith and being movable relative to the first closing member; and
bending the ends of the fastener with the second closing member to close the fastener.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the engaging with the first closing member comprises moving both the first closing member and the second closing member toward a fastener-dispensing location.

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19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the engaging with the first closing member comprises engaging the ends of the fastener in the first groove in the first closing member; further wherein the engaging with the second closing member comprises receiving the ends of the fastener from the first groove into the second groove in the second closing member.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the bending with the second closing member comprises moving the second closing member relative to the first closing member.

21-24. (Please cancel claims 21-24.)